

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested for claims 1-15, 17-31, 33, and 35-44.

Initially, the undersigned wishes to thank Examiners Bartosik and Chilcot for their time, attention, and consideration during the interview that was conducted at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 18, 2009.

Claims 16-18, 20-22, and 43 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

During the interview, the Examiner advised that the claims would be allowable if amended to recite language to the effect that a tension member extends through at least part rigid spacer. Independent claims 1 and 33 have been amended to recite such language. It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments place all of the pending claims in condition for allowance. Allowance is cordially urged.

To the extent that the applicant does not respond to a particular comment in the Official Action, the applicant does not intend by this to indicate acquiescence in or agreement with the comment. To the extent that any extensions of time are necessary in connection with this application it is requested that there be a standing petition for extension of time and that any additional fees that are required, or refunds due, in connection with this or any other paper filed in connection with this application be charged to Deposit Account 503015.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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